

JAN 22 2008

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF
TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Organic farming practices are beneficial to
2 human health and towards the preservation of environmental
3 quality because these practices emphasize sustainability,
4 enhance soil health, and promote the practice of growing
5 agricultural products without the use of toxic substances, such
6 as pesticides and fertilizers. While organic farming is an
7 important building block for maintaining and preserving the
8 State's scenic and environmental resources, it is also an
9 essential element in creating economic viability and preserving
10 the quality of life in rural and agricultural communities.

11 According to a national study, approximately two per cent
12 of the United States food supply is grown using organic methods
13 and the nationwide retail sales of organic food and beverages in
14 2005 totaled approximately \$12,800,000,000. There are close to
15 two hundred organic farms in Hawaii, which produce organic
16 products such as coffee, macadamia nuts, bananas, pineapples,
17 ginger, mangoes, citrus fruits, avocados, tomatoes, and salad



1 greens. The Hawaii Organic Farmers Association, an accredited
2 third party certification agency for the United States
3 Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program, estimates
4 that organic farming in Hawaii is a \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000
5 per year industry.

6 There is currently a high and increasing demand for organic
7 produce that exceeds the State's local organic food supply, and
8 to meet this demand, local produce markets and large mainland
9 chain stores must import organic produce from the mainland and
10 other countries. Unfortunately, the importation of organic
11 produce can result in a higher number of invasive species that
12 are inadvertently brought into the State upon arrival, and can
13 impact the State's agriculture sector, economy, and sustainable
14 food supply. To assist in nurturing our State's organic
15 agriculture segment and to safeguard our environment from
16 invasive species that may be inadvertently transported to the
17 State via imported organic produce, the State should support
18 locally-based organic agriculture.

19 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
20 University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human
21 resources to hire additional staff, including researchers and



1 specialists, to support organic agriculture research and
2 teaching programs.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for
6 the college of tropical agriculture and human resources to hire
7 additional staff, including researchers and specialists, to
8 support organic agriculture research and teaching programs.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
10 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

12

INTRODUCED BY:

Mike Johnson

[Signature]

Arvinder K. Anand

[Signature]

Erzanne Chun Tealund

Gay L. Hoern

Will Lyne

Clarence K. Kishikawa
Ren Mann
[Signature]
Carol Fukunaga

[Signature]



Report Title:

UH; CTAHR; Organic Agriculture; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources for additional researchers and specialists to support organic agriculture research and teaching programs.

